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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 05980 222208Z

64
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 AID-20

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02

LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /145 W
---------- 082885
R 222146Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1099
INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 5980

EO 11652 GDS
TAGS: EGEN, PINT, PE
SUBJECT: MILGOV REPORTED BACKING AWAY FROM PRESS TAKEOVER;
RUMORS CONCERNING CHANGE IN FINANCE MINISTRY

1. THE FOLLOWING TWO REPORTS COME FROM A JUNE 22 CONVERSATION BE-
TWEEN USIS OFFICERS AND A KNOWLEDGEABLE, ALBEIT CONSERVATIVE, ANTI-
MILGOV JOURNALIST.

2. AFTER MEETING WITH CUBAN PRESS ATTACHE, LA PRENSA'S DIRECTOR,
MARIO CASTRO ARENAS, TOLD SOURCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT
GOING TO RESTRUCTURE RADICALLY OWNERSHIP OF PRESS. HOWEVER,
NEWSPAPERS WOULD BE OBLIGED TO HAVE WORKERS' PAGE. (COMMENT:
THIS IS THE FIRST INDICATION THAT MILGOV MAY NOT, DESPITE A
REPORTEDLY SIGNED DECREE, TURN NEWSPAPERS OVER TO PERUVIAN
WORKERS.)

3. SPECULATING ON REASONS FOR FINANCE MINISTER MARCO DEL PON'S
RESIGNATION BECAUSE OF "HEALTH REASONS", SOURCE SAID THAT HE HAD
HEARD THREE "RUMORS": (1) DEL PONT SOUGHT TO HOLD UP A
$3 MILLION ARMS PURCHASE FOR THREE OR FOUR MONTHS DUE TO
BUDGETARY PRESSURES; (2) DEL PONT WANTED TO RAISE GASOLINE
AND SUBSIDIZED FOOD PRICES TO TRY TO HELP CUT DOWN ON IMPORTS;
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(3) HE AUTHORIZED FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK TO REPATRIATE CERTAIN

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PROFITS THAT SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN REPATRIATED. (EMBASSY CANNOT CONFIRM SUBSTANCE OF THESE RUMORS. EMBASSY HAS ALSO HEARD RUMOR OF FOURTH REASON, NAMELY THAT MARCO DEL PONT WAS ADVOCATING STAGED DEVALUATION. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, GENERAL MORALES-BERMUDEZ TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT ONE FACTOR IN CHANGE THAT FINANCE MINISTRY HAD MADE MESS OF NEW IMPORT RESTRICTIONS.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Remarks:
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